



Minutes of Meeting
CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
January 14, 2015

ATTENDANCE

Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners

X	Larry Bomke	X	Robert Plunk
X	Josh Collins	X	J.D. Sudeth
X	James Donelan	X	Joan Walters
	Karen Hasara	X	Robert Wesley
X	Jackie Newman		

Others:

Norm Sims - SSCPRC

Jeff Fulgenzi -SSCRPC

Gail Weiskopf- SSCRPC

Christie Crites – Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

Richard Treat – Chatham Township Supervisor

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Joan Walters called the meeting of the Citizens' Efficiency Commission to order.

II. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Chair Walters announced that commissioner Hon. Karen Hasara would not be in attendance for the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Walters asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 10, 2014, regular meeting. Mr. James Donelan offered corrections. There being no further corrections, Chair Walters asked for a motion to approve the minutes the minutes as amended. Mr. J.D. Sudeth moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Robert Plunk seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Walters asked the public visitors to introduce themselves. Ms. Christie Crites, with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. and Mr. Richard Treat, Chatham Township Supervisor were in attendance. Chair Walters thanked them for coming.



Chair Walters reported that she and Mr. Sudeth visited the new centralized City garage and were very impressed with the facility. The consolidation of the fire, police, public works and CWLP garages appears to have taken place with a high level of cooperation and minimal friction. The new set-up also creates better working conditions for employees and more training opportunities. Chair Walters and Mr. Sudeth also viewed the NAPA cage which supplies 90 percent of the parts needed to accomplish routine maintenance on vehicles. The efficiency and sustainability of this facility is great.

Chair Walters suggested that the CEC should present, Mr. Mike Palazzolo, Fleet Manager and Mr. Bill McCarty, Director, Springfield Office of Budget and Management with a certificate for their efforts to which the commission agreed.

Chair Walters announced that Mr. Chris Hembrough was unable to attend today's CEC meeting. The Commission had invited President Hembrough from the Chamber/Q5 to speak about economic development and how government may or may not be an impediment to economic development in our economy. Mr. Josh Collins said Mr. Hembrough was planning on attending next month's meeting. Chair Walters asks for suggestions of other public figures within the community that the Commission thought would be beneficial to invite to give a presentation for the Commission. Walters suggested Springfield Superintendent Jennifer Gill. Mr. Robert Wesley suggested having a rural area superintendent as well. Mr. Plunk suggested Mr. Thomas Bertrand, Rochester Superintendent or Dr. Lance Thurman, Riverton Superintendent.

V. DISCUSSION OF TASKFORCE WORK PLANS

A. Regional Leadership Council as Strategic Partner - Higher Ed Institutions as Strategic Partner

– Robert Plunk & Jackie Newman

Mr. Plunk reported that Ms. Carol Kulek will be giving her presentation on current examples of energy efficiency projects that have been recently completed by local governments in 2014 at the Regional Leadership Council meeting, Wednesday, January 28, 2015 which will be held at the Riverton Village Hall from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm.

Mr. Plunk announced that the Dawson and the Riverton Council's have recently agreed to share Water Department management. He passed out the article from the December 18, 2014 Riverton Register. The two mayors Tom Rader, Riverton and Jeremy Nunes, Dawson have taken the CEC's advice and had moved forward with discussion with their trustees. Mr. Sims suggested sending both of the mayors a certificate and noted that this effort is consistent with Riverton's comprehensive plan.

Mr. Plunk indicated that he was unsure how to handle the Higher Education Institutes part of the taskforce work plan. Mr. Sims explained that due to recent changes at Benedictine, that university may not be a resource at the present time. However, he reported that Planning Commission staff had met with Dr. Richard Funderburg from University of Illinois Springfield concerning the project he proposed. It seems that much of the data need for the project is

available. They are currently working on the model that will be tracked at three different levels of households such as low, medium and high income. Some of the key elements are only found in the data from the townships, such as size of structures, how many stories is a residential structure, etc. Dr. Funderburg will only be able to use the data held by the more urban townships as it is automated.

By using this model they will be able to report how for each household income level taxes paid are reflected in services provided. The model could be altered to reflect additional household variables, and could be used to assess areas where services might be ill-distributed in terms of taxes paid. A foreseeable problem is the fact that the rural townships data is not automated, which may also be the case for other counties we may want to benchmark against, leaving us to only be able to do longitudinal analysis for Sangamon County.

Chair Walters explained that for now higher education institution part would be put on hold to see how Dr. Richard Funderburg's project works out

B. Sewer Transfer Study - Chair Walters & Jim Donelan

Chair Walters stated that Mr. Donelan and she had not met with Mr. Mark Mahoney of the City of Springfield or Mr. Gregg Humphrey of the Springfield Metropolitan Sanitary District since they last reported. She explained that the topic of Sewer Transfer Study came up at the City Council Budget meeting for Public Works. New council member, Mr. Jim McDonough, asked Mark Mahoney what his recommendation was for the sewers and where it stood. Mr. Mahoney response was brief offering that there was a group involved in the Sewer Transfer Study and that they recently traveled to and visited with Peoria officials and noted at some point he will need to involve the Mayor and City Council in the discussion.

C. Regional Policing Study - Karen Hasara & Sen. Larry Bomke

Sen. Larry Bomke said nothing to report at this time. The CEC discussed the new jail personal and the new Sherriff's position on the study. Mr. Sims noted that when these questions are put to people, they think of this in terms of patrol, not all the other things where there could be joint efforts. Mr. Jeff Fulgenzi reported that he had a recent discussion with Wes Barr, and offered to meet with him and his staff to discuss the work of the efficiency commission. Many people have a limited understanding of the CEC reports and recommendations and an assumption is often made that the CEC called for Metro Policing, which of course, it did not. Sheriff Barr did express interest in meeting with his leadership team to gain a better understanding.

D. Developing Legislative Linkages - Karen Hasara & Sen. Larry Bomke

Sen. Bomke spoke about the material he received about trying to share administrators within the schools districts. He wanted to know how this idea came about, and if there had been meetings with school officials. Mr. Sims explained that the committee that was working on this at the time had talked about sharing administrators. Recently, Mr. Jeff Vose, Regional Superintendent of

Schools, has indicated that maybe it is not a problem. He has gotten a legal opinion, who said they could do it under intergovernmental agreement. The CEC will need to clarify this, because it was CEC understanding that it was not related to state law. But related to how superintendent and some staff are certified. It is more a bureaucratic problem than a legal problem, so the Planning Commission will explore this in greater detail. The stumbling block is if it effects the certification of the staff that would be doing the sharing. Discussion was brought up if there were any districts interested in the shared administration. Mr. Fulgenzi stated that in recommendations of the CEC's Term 1 Report referenced Lt. Governor, Sheila Simon's Classrooms First report had language about increasing use of shared administrators. Chair Walters ask Sen. Bomke to reach out to Governor Rauner's staff particularly, David Wu, director of government transformation to acquaint him with the CEC and to invite him to speak at one of the CEC's meetings. The CEC would be interested in learning about government transformation, how it effects local governments and what is his approach to the performance measurements. Others who were noted to contact were the following: Policy Team: Joe Beyer, Efficiency and Metrics, Jim Clark, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

E. Developing Linkages with Townships - Jim Donelan & J.D. Sudeth

Chair Walters asked for an update on townships. Mr. Donelan reported that Mr. J.D. Sudeth and he met with the Mr. Marty Mau, President of Sangamon County Township Official's Association and Mr. Richard Treat, Supervisor of Chatham Township. The discussion was great and the CEC was able to explain its purpose. There was an absolute interest of ways to facilitate the recommendations that have been adopted. The CEC's plan is to look for ways to engage both with intergovernmental as well as the back office functions, such as payroll and joint publications. Mr. Donelan spoke of the opportunity the CEC had to attend the Sangamon County Township Official's Association meeting the following week and the ability to cover information about the linkages with a larger group; however their focus seems to be on the Regional Leader Council. The CEC did not want the townships to miss any opportunities. Mr. Treat expressed that the open dialogue was great and it was much needed, because there were so many misunderstandings in the beginning of how important townships are and how they are involved with the local community. Mr. Treat said currently they have at least five intergovernmental agreements in place and soon will have two more. Currently share a laborer and working on sharing equipment with a driver with two other townships. Mr. Treat stated that in his thirty-six years with the township he has always felt that it is the taxpayer's money, it isn't township money. We have to be good stewards of it, share and cooperate, which happens in Chatham Township. Mr. Donelan noted that Chatham Township also partners with Capital Township for General Assistance, which is a program for the needy. If the individual is unable to travel to Springfield to Capital Township, a case-worker from Capital Township will come to Chatham Township to assist them. Mr. Treat said it has been a big money saving program for them plus they have the experts do the work and not someone who is not as well trained. The staff from Capitol Township has access to their computer system at Chatham Township and it has really worked well for the last several years. Mr. Donelan expressed a lesson learned while talking about some of the recommendations that impacted townships specifically; one of them was the equipment inventory. Despite the distribution to the municipalities, townships, and government

entities to get this inventory together. Outreach was lacking and many people were unaware of the information. Mr. Donelan said the CEC should revisit this annually to inform local governments these recommendations are available, as the goal is to have everyone aware of about the recommendations. Mr. Fulgenzi reported the Regional Leadership is also discussing shared administration and they have recently sent out surveys to Mayors and Presidents to discuss shared administration in pursuit of cost savings and to share professional staff. Discussion was brought up about Indiana Townships, since a lot of the new administration is coming from Indiana. In comparison to Sangamon County what do they do differently and could Sangamon County change to be more efficient. The question was asked how the County garage and the City garage would be able to interact and help one another to be more efficient. The article from the newspaper was also noted on the Affordable Care Act. Last year Capital Township distributed over a million dollars to people who needed medical assistance. The townships are liable for someone's medical expenses if they are receiving general assistance from them. The townships have saved monies from medical assistance and those funds are now going toward Workfare Program.

F. Developing Linkages with Fire/EMS – Robert Plunk & Robert Wesley

Mr. Wesley reported that he was happy that the CEC received the Fire/EMS work plan last meeting in his absence. He reported that he and Vice Chair Plunk will be attending Fire/EMS subcommittee meeting tonight. For now the taskforce will be actively engaged with the Fire/EMS subcommittee, but as far as taking action toward the Fire/EMS recommendation, the CEC is waiting to see what the subcommittee of the Regional Leadership Council (RLC) does and will continue to report back. The first meeting was an organizing meeting and some of the same old “footballs were kicked around” so nothing of really of substance happened. Mr. Wesley noted that he and Vice Chair Plunk met with Todd Masterhan, Chief, Sherman FPD and Phil Schumer, Chief, Chatham FPD, because during the course of the August 13, 2014 meeting with the Fire Chief's Association and the RLC Fire Service Committee meeting, the chiefs were pretty clear and repeated the statement that there were about a half dozen fire districts in Sangamon County that are not sustainable. The CEC and RLC wanted to know what that meant and were provided documents which offer additional details regarding the makeup of a good department or a department the fire chiefs' felt was unsustainable. The document was passed to the commissioners. Mr. Wesley summarized the document. What it comes down to is they believe

1. There are problems in leadership in FPD which means
 - A. Trustees that are not engaged, or
 - B. Trustees are not knowledgeable enough to be appropriately engaged.
2. There is a dwindling source of volunteers in some areas particularly during the daytime.

3. There are fire districts that have an inadequate tax base to support, not only to maintain where they are, but more importantly to improve where upon their conditions.

These three items interchange and play up against one another, for instance, one reason for the lack of volunteers is people work in the city during the day. Another one is poor leadership which cannot acquire and sustain a qualified volunteer pool. Mr. Wesley concluded within the two page document they give a point by point set of observations and recommendations. The Chief's did identify the departments the felt were not sustainable FPD's which are Mechanicsburg, Dawson, Buffalo, Williamsville, Divernon, and Loami. At this time the CEC/RLC has dialogue with the self identified Fire Chiefs' Association Executive Committee serving the subcommittee but noted that they hope to hear from additional fire chiefs and additional trustees to ensure regional inclusion for all those who may be interested. For now the CEC will continue to follow the RLC /CEC subcommittee and monitor progress.

After some discussion among the commissioners several thoughts surfaced: 1) this will work only if reasonable people reach some reasonable conclusions and right now reasonable is not the strong suit in this evolving interaction. Instead of opening up, the fire officials are appear to be battering down, therefore this issue will only get resolved if people are willing to sit down and talk about it in a rational way. 2) When is an unit of government no longer able to sustain itself? When a fire district is collecting taxes and making expenditures but cannot provide required services, Mutual Aid Agreements will cover likely continue to cover for lack of services in some districts.

Mr. Wesley explained another question the chiefs had brought up- What are the expectations of the taxpayers in that District, at what level do they expect to have EMS coverage that meets the standards set elsewhere? His response was it is an open ended question; the people would need to be heard. People respond to the limit on taxes they will pay, limit on how the funds are expended, and "what do I get for my dollar". Chief Schumer, Chatham FPD, said he lives with the risk every day, that one day could become fact, and that is by sending one unit to a rural fire district he takes a chance that there may be a need in his district for all three units. Although the CEC cannot do much about this situation, the CEC needs to draw people together. This has been accomplished through supporting the RLC. He noted that the RLC is taking great interest in the issue and showing leadership by establishing the subcommittee. Mr. Wesley believes the CEC should continue to support the RLC effort and be patience as the process is evolving. The taskforce will continue to meet and will work to resolve unanswered questions.

Mr. Wesley apologized as he noted one other item he has raised regarding the Fire/EMS recommendation is that the CEC report divides the county into quadrants and indicates this could be a model for change. What Chief Masterhan, Sherman FPD told Mr. Wesley there are still some Boards that are fixated what they thought was in the recommendation. Mr. Wesley has repeated to the EMS Subcommittee and to the Fire Chief's Association Executive Board that he has faith in the recommendation and he believes what went into it was quality work and that the thought process was up to the task. That it is a good thought process and the recommendation is reasonable given that data and the reasoning behind it. However if fire officials continue to reject that, it suits him. It is a recommendation. It is not a law. It is not a regulation. It is not a rule. It is a recommendation. Mr. Wesley said that he has said this already, but he wants highlight the point yet again and offers this challenge, if not this recommendation then what recommendations do others propose? Noting this is the nature of a dialogue. That is the dialogue the RLC and their inclusive subcommittee is trying to work out. The discussion was this is a really good point on the staff side. The original complaints from a few fire officials was the wrong measures was used, the wrong data was used, however the report is inconsistent and that is how research is conducted. Mr. Wesley countered that to date no alternative data has been offered by the fire officials. What is the consistent data set? It was obvious the chiefs had not read the report and had made conclusions that were not true. Had they read it, they would have known it was based on solid reporting. He noted that the report has been rejected by sovereign entities of the local fire districts and is looking forward to the continued dialogue

G. Create Network of Business Leaders - J.D. Sudeth & Josh Collins

Mr. Sudeth reported that the taskforce has not yet discussed their plan. Mr. Collins did ask the commissioners to remember businesses when working on their plans, because it is really difficult to engage business on efficiency of government. He also noted that last year, Mike Murphy, who is now on the chamber board, requested that the CEC to include most of this issues into the CEC Annual Policy Agenda. Chair Walters requested Mr. Fulgenzi to send the Agenda to all the board, because Mr. Hembrough will be requested to speak at the next meeting.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair Walters asks if there were any updates for social media / website. Mr. Sims said the County's test site is up. Mr. Fulgenzi spoke with Mr. Brian McFadden about the CEC and received a positive response. The discussion was that the CEC would use the County website and that for now the social media part will be on hold.



Mr. Wesley wanted to make note that he was elected representative this time and he does not representing anyone or any other entity in his efforts.

VII. OTHER SPECIAL REPORTS

The RLC will be meeting January 28, 2015.

The next CEC meeting date will be Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at 3:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in Room 212 of the Regional Planning Commission.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Walters asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Plunk commented that the Superintendent of Riverton is Mr. Lance Thurman. Mr. Sims announced that the Central Illinois Chapter of American Society for Public Administration is doing a session which will be moderated by Mr. Wesley, February 19, 2015 at the Trutter Center at Lincoln Land Community College. The topic to be discussed will be “Are We the People?: Reviving Civics as a Public Value” and Illinois Public Act 98-0301, which amended the state’s school code to establish a state-wide taskforce to analyze the status of civic education in the state.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walters asked if there were any further comments. There being none, she called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Collins motioned to adjourn. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Weiskopf
Acting as Recording Secretary